



MILWAUKEE WATER COMMONS

Water Quality Task Force Hearing

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Co-Executive Directors

August 13, 2019

About MWC

Our Mission

Milwaukee Water Commons is a cross-city network that fosters connection, collaboration and broad community leadership on behalf of our waters.

We promote stewardship of, equitable access to and shared decision-making for our common waters.



Our Vision

Milwaukee is a model water city where we all have a stake and a say in the health of our waters, and we all share in their care and benefits.

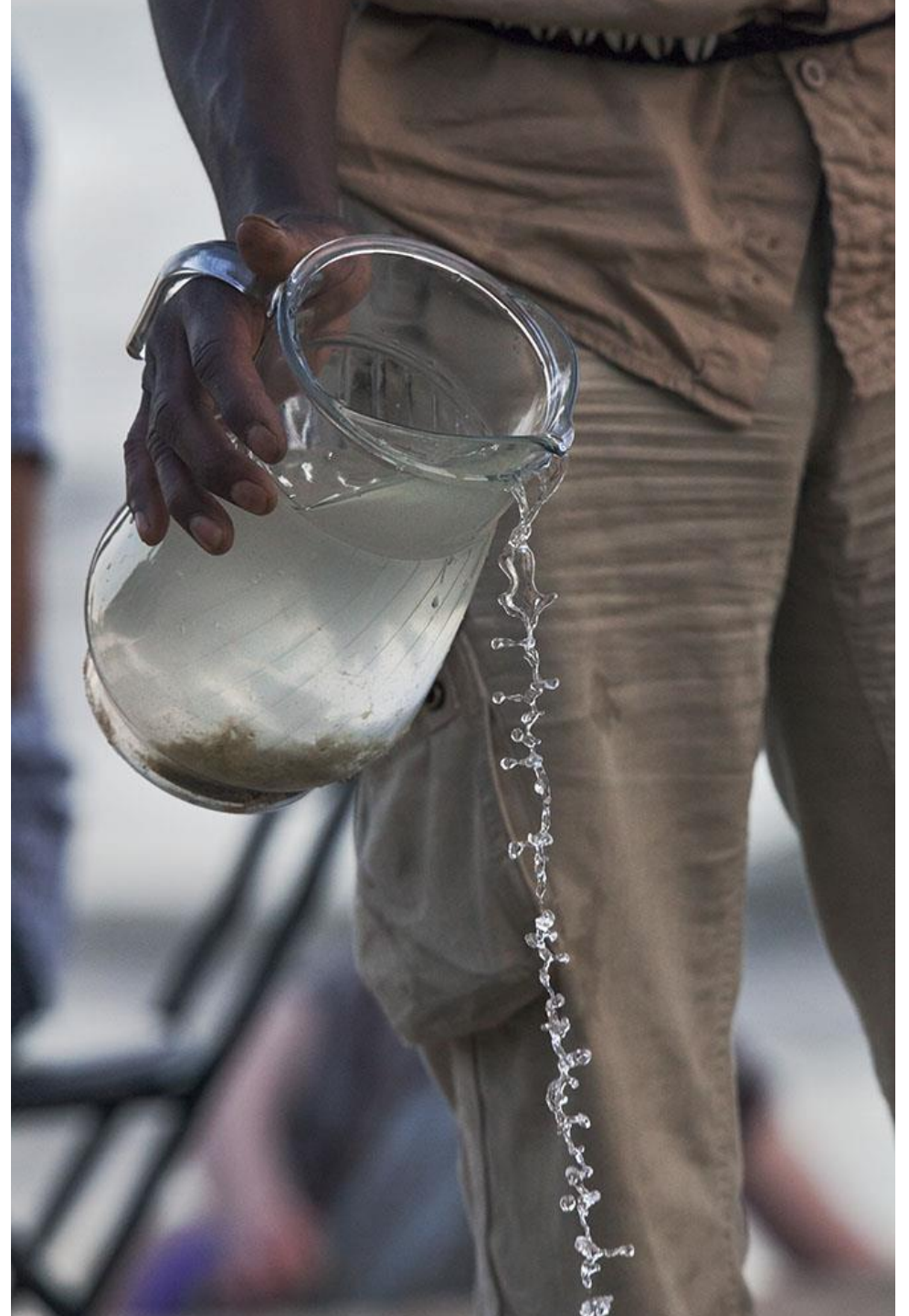
How We Organize

Frameworks

1. Environmental Justice
2. Collective Impact
3. The Commons

Principles

1. Community Engagement
2. Jemez Principles



Water City 3.0

Water City Agenda – a 10 Year, Community Defined Vision of Milwaukee as a Model Water City

6 Initiatives

- Blue Green Jobs
- Water Quality
- Drinking Water
- Arts & Culture
- Education & Recreation
- Green Infrastructure

MILWAUKEE WATER CITY
BUILDING A WATER CITY
A VISION FOR 2026

1 BLUE GREEN JOBS

Challenge
Milwaukee has an overall unemployment rate of 6.8% and an unemployment rate for African Americans over twice the national average.

Goal
Milwaukee is a national leader in blue-green jobs.

Initiatives
Create an advisory council for growing local blue-green jobs.
Develop career pathways to blue-green jobs.

2 WATER QUALITY

Challenge
Milwaukee has waterways that are neither fishable or swimmable and continues to have beach closures due to poor water quality.

Goal
Fishable & swimmable waterways.

Initiatives
Involve area businesses in raising funds and awareness toward naturalizing rivers and greenways.
Planting more trees along our waterways.

3 DRINKING WATER

Challenge
Many properties utilize lead pipes for water distribution, potentially exposing the residents to significant health risks.

Goal
Safe, clean & affordable tap water for all.

Initiatives
Education, testing, and filtration to ensure public safety.
Transparent process for funding and removal of lead pipes.

4 ARTS & CULTURE

Challenge
Milwaukee, a city of festivals, does not have a sustained and significant arts or cultural focus on water.

Goal
Milwaukee hosts a major water festival.

Initiatives
Increase funding, sponsorship and partners for We Are Water celebration.
Create a visual brand and logo for Milwaukee as a Water City.

5 EDUCATION & RECREATION

Challenge
Many Milwaukeeans don't know how to swim and don't use the waterways for recreation. Many Milwaukee Citizens haven't been able to develop a relationship with water.

Goal
Every Milwaukeean has meaningful water experiences.

Initiatives
Develop water curriculum and project-based learning for students.
Teach every child in Milwaukee how to swim.

6 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Challenge
There are no requirements for new developments to integrate a stormwater management plan. Due to climate change, Milwaukee may experience heavier rain events that cause flooding and sewer overflows.

Goal
Green Infrastructure advances throughout the city.

Initiatives
Create a Green Infrastructure Service Center (GISC).
Launch a "Green First" campaign making green infrastructure the new norm.

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Water Quality & Drinking Water

- Advocating for swimmable, fishable, drinkable waters
- Branch Out Milwaukee
- Cream City Classic
- Drinking Water
 - education, advocacy, and filtration



2019 CREAM CITY CLASSIC
MILWAUKEE'S OWN OPEN RIVER SWIM

CALLING ALL SWIMMERS!

1.5 Mile Open Water Swim Race in the Milwaukee River
Yes, the Milwaukee River!

Help us promote:

- Swimmable, Fishable Waters
- Equal Access • Water Safety
- Swimming as a Life Skill

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

Let's celebrate progress made towards clean, healthy waters, promote ongoing stewardship & reclaim these waters for all!

Register Today!
www.creamcityclassic.org

We need you!
Swim for clean healthy water this summer.
Aug. 10, 2019

Sanctioned by: **US MASTERS SWIMMING**

Find out how you can get involved! staff@milwaukeewatercommons.org • 414.763.6199
@mkewatercommons • 2027 W. Fond du Lac Ave, Milwaukee 53205

What We Need: City & State Approach

- One Water
 - The way we see the water
 - Drinking Water
 - Storm Water
 - Sanitary Sewer
 - Coordinating efforts & impacts
- Rural & urban water quality issues connect us – we ask you to speak that way – connect us, not divide us
- Clean drinking water is a human right
 - Short-term – filters
 - Long-term – lead pipe replacement in a generation



What We Need From Our Legislature

- Milwaukee needs to know that we are a state priority
- Our government must be the trustee of our shared waters and prioritize people + planet
- Public health lens calls for a strategic plan, not piecemeal, with funding to bring infrastructure replacement up to scale
- Support for 70,000 drinking water filters in the interim



Thank you!



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